

REMARKS

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

In accordance with the foregoing, various claims have been amended. Claim 5 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-4 and 6-15 are now pending and under consideration.

No new matter is being presented. Approval and entry are respectfully requested.

II. CLAIMS 8 AND 10 ARE REJECTED UNDER 35 U.S.C. 112, SECOND PARAGRAPH, AS BEING INDEFINITE

Claims 8 and 10 are amended herein to overcome the rejection. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted the rejection is overcome. Approval and entry is respectfully requested.

III. CLAIMS 1- 4 AND 6-15 ARE REJECTED UNDER 35 U.S.C. 102(b) AS BEING ANTICIPATED BY BIRNBAUM (U.S. PATENT 5,797,128)

The Examiner states in item 8 of the Office Action that claim 5 is "objected to" as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Independent claims 1, 13, 14 and 15 are amended herein to include the features of claim 5. Therefore, all claims should be now be allowable. Approval and entry is respectfully requested.

IV. CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

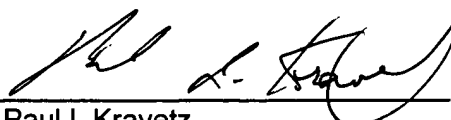
If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Serial No. 09/961,320

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: December 8, 2005

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